



KRISHNA AND NARAKASURA

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Vol 522





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KRISHNA AND NARAKASURA



IN HIS VARAHA AVATAR,*VISHNU LIFTED BHOOMI DEVI FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN. SOON AFTER THAT A SON WAS BORN TO BHOOMI DEVI. HE CAME TO BE KNOWN AS NARAKASURA. THOUGH HE WAS THE SON OF A DIVINITY AND A VIRTUOUS MOTHER, NARAKA UNFORTUNATELY TURNED OUT TO BE A VICIOUS ASURA...

...WHO TOOK PLEASURE IN
TERRORISING THE INHABITANTS
OF ALL THE THREE WORLDS.



* BOAR INCARNATION

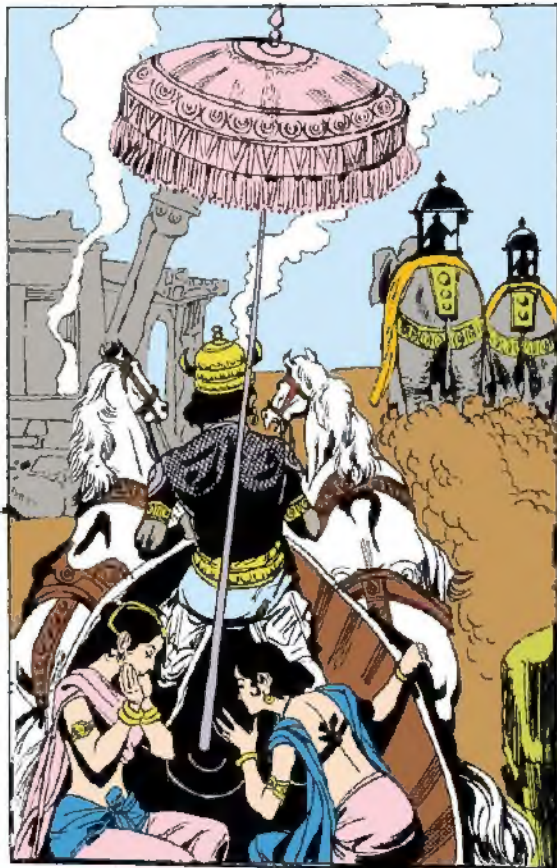
KINGS AND SAGES , RAKSHASAS AND DEVAS ALIKE, FEARED HIM.



BUT THE GUARDS WERE HELPLESS AGAINST NARAKA AND HIS RUTHLESS HORDES.



ROUND UP THE CHARIOTS AND HORSES! SEIZE THE MAIDENS. THEY SHALL ADORN MY PALACE.

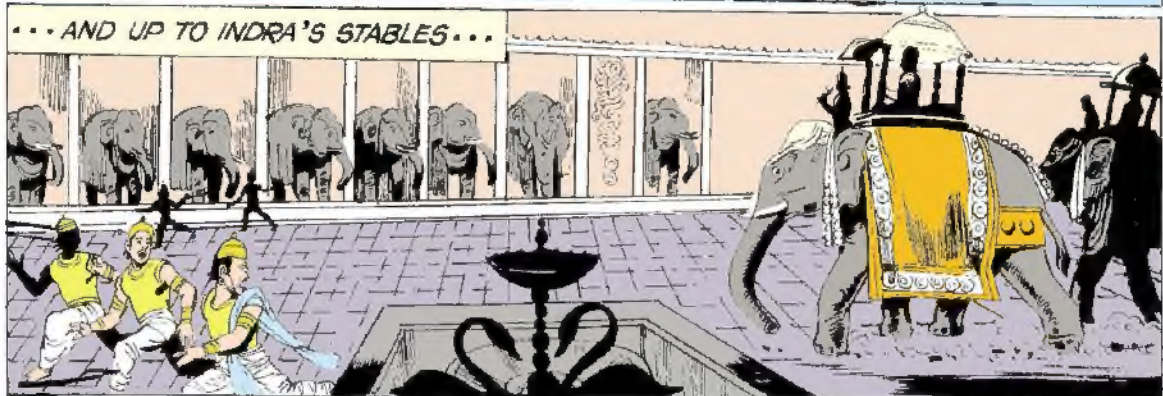
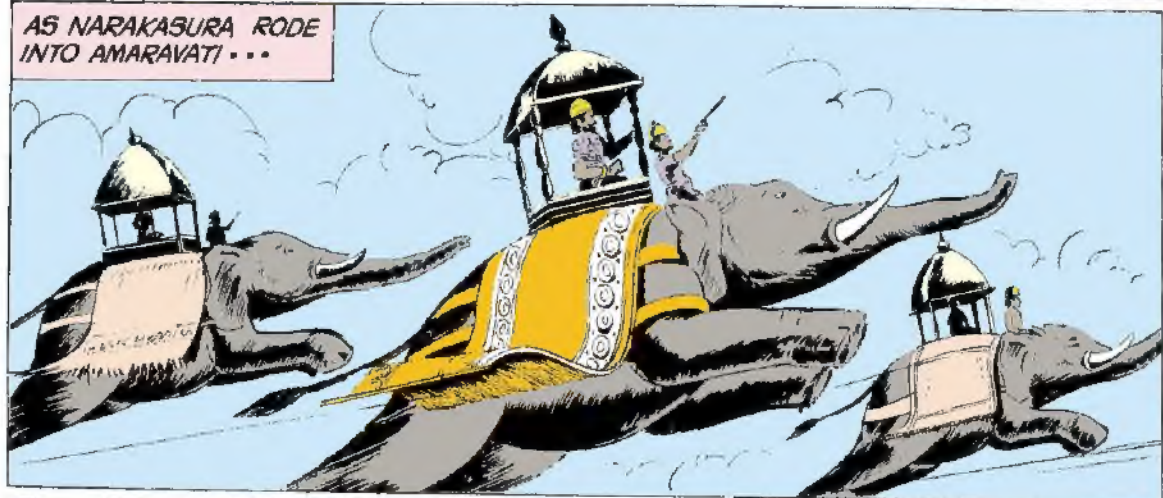
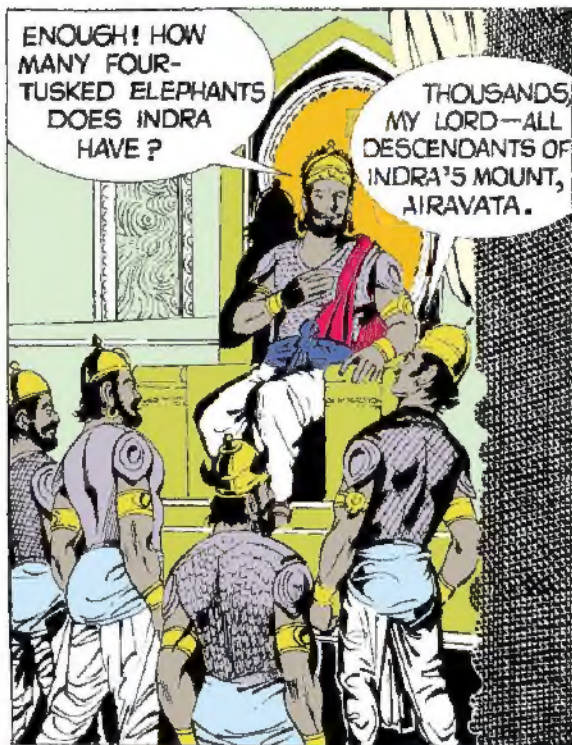


LATER, AT NARAKA'S CAPITAL, PRAGJYOTISHA—



HOW MANY MAIDENS HAVE WE CAPTURED SO FAR?

SIXTEEN THOUSAND AND ONE HUNDRED, O KING.



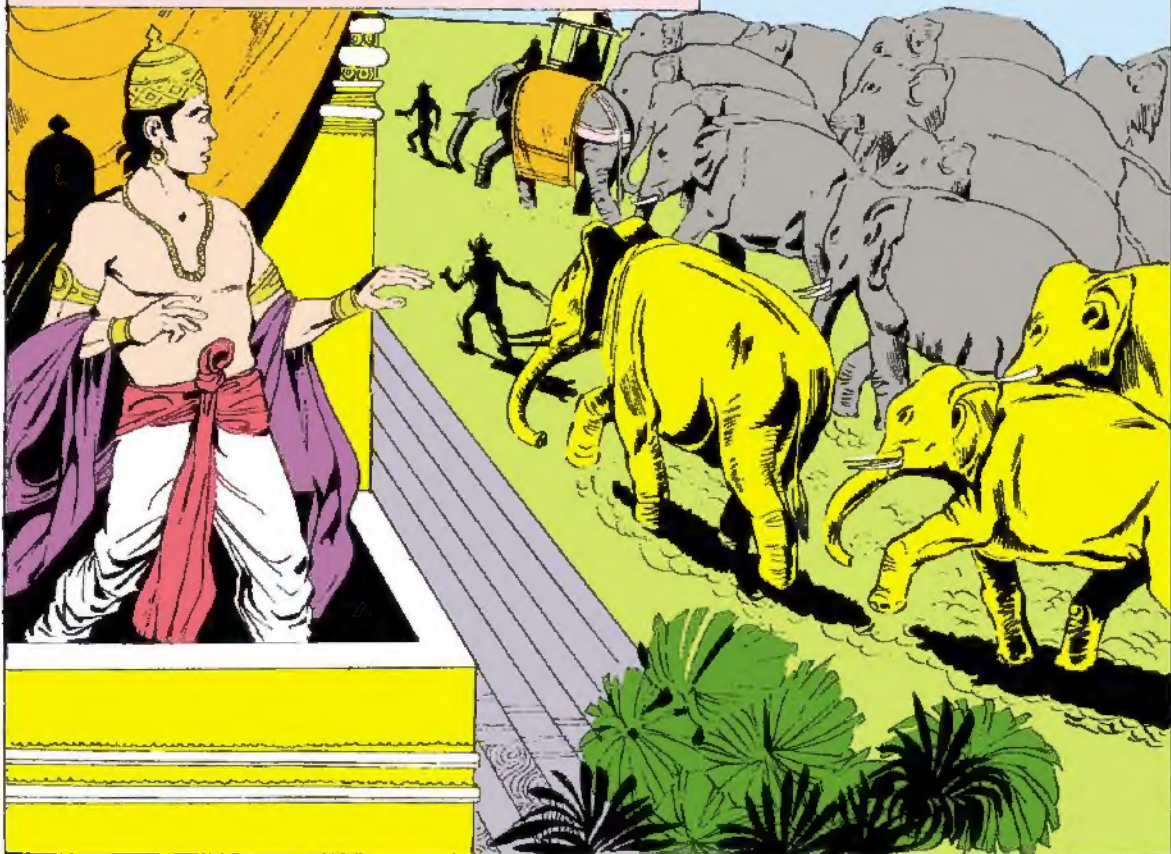
* INDRA'S CAPITAL

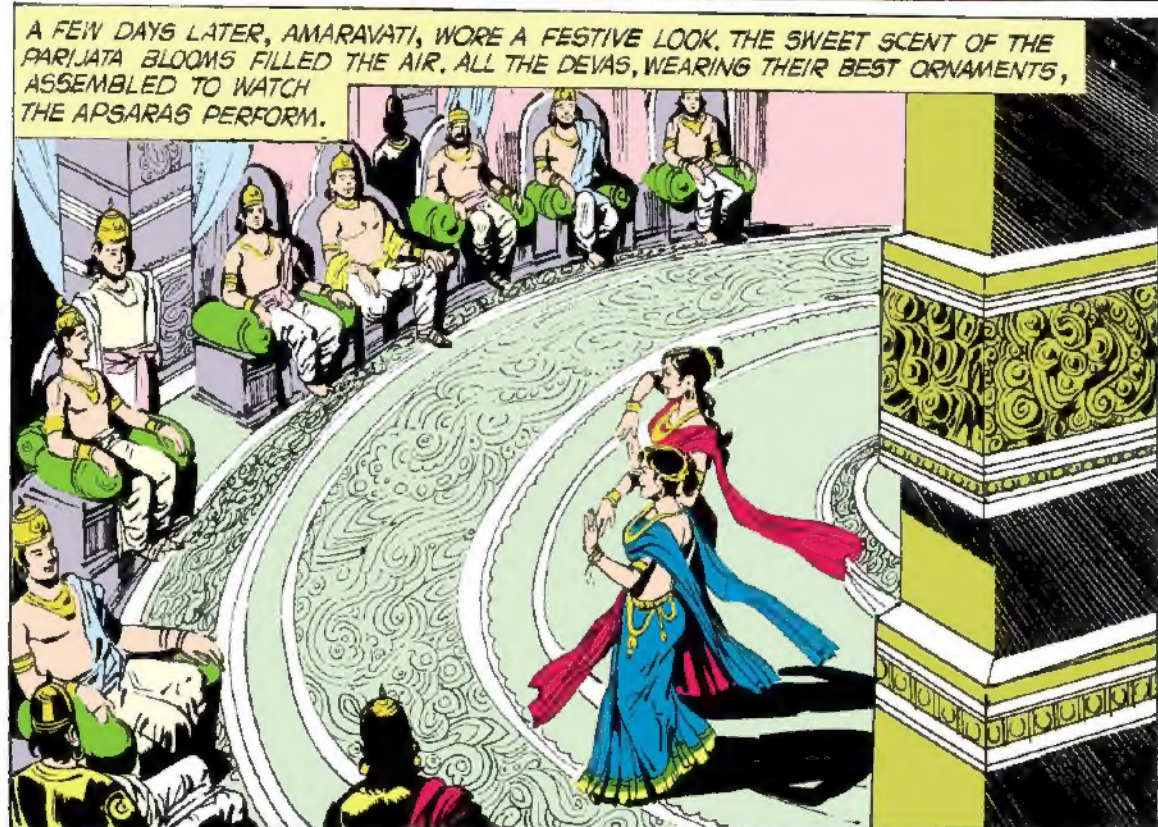
... INDRA COULD ONLY FUME WITH IMPOTENT FURY.

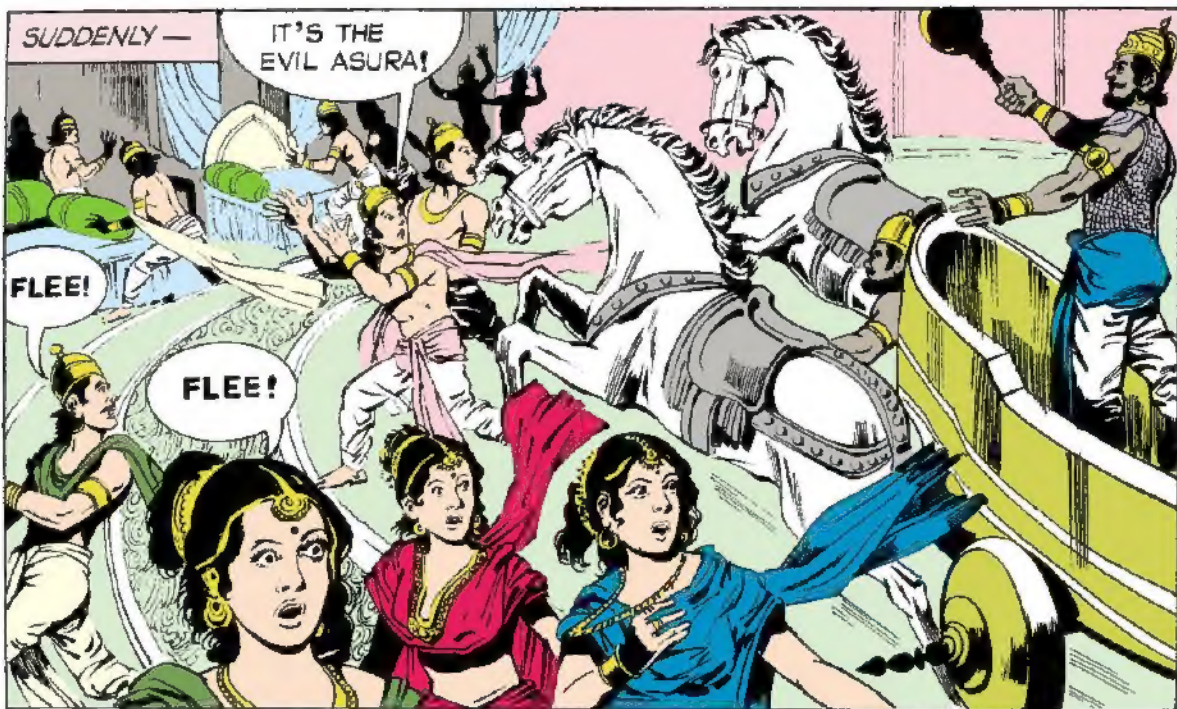
HE'S TAKING AWAY MY
ELEPHANTS! BUT WHAT
CAN I DO? I DARE NOT
OPPOSE THE ASURA.
HE IS INVINCIBLE.



THUS DID THE WICKED NARAKA HARASS THE DEVAS.







AS THE DEVAS TRIED TO ESCAPE, NARAKASURA'S HORDES SWOOPED DOWN ON THEM.



*LORD OF THE HYDROSPHERE

AS NARAKA CHARGED TOWARDS VARUNA, A DAZZLING FLASH BLINDED HIM FOR A MOMENT.



THE MOTHER OF THE DEVAS HAS WORN HER PRECIOUS EAR-RINGS!

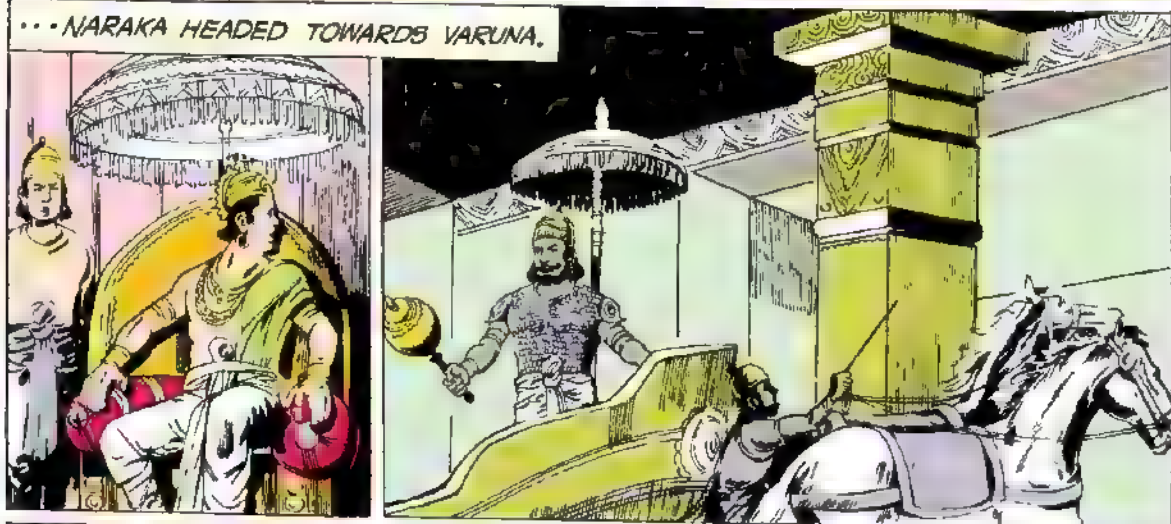
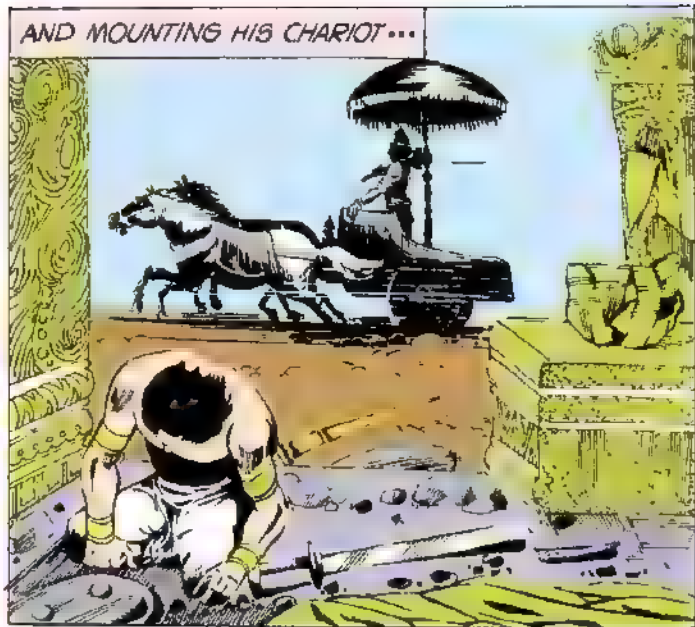


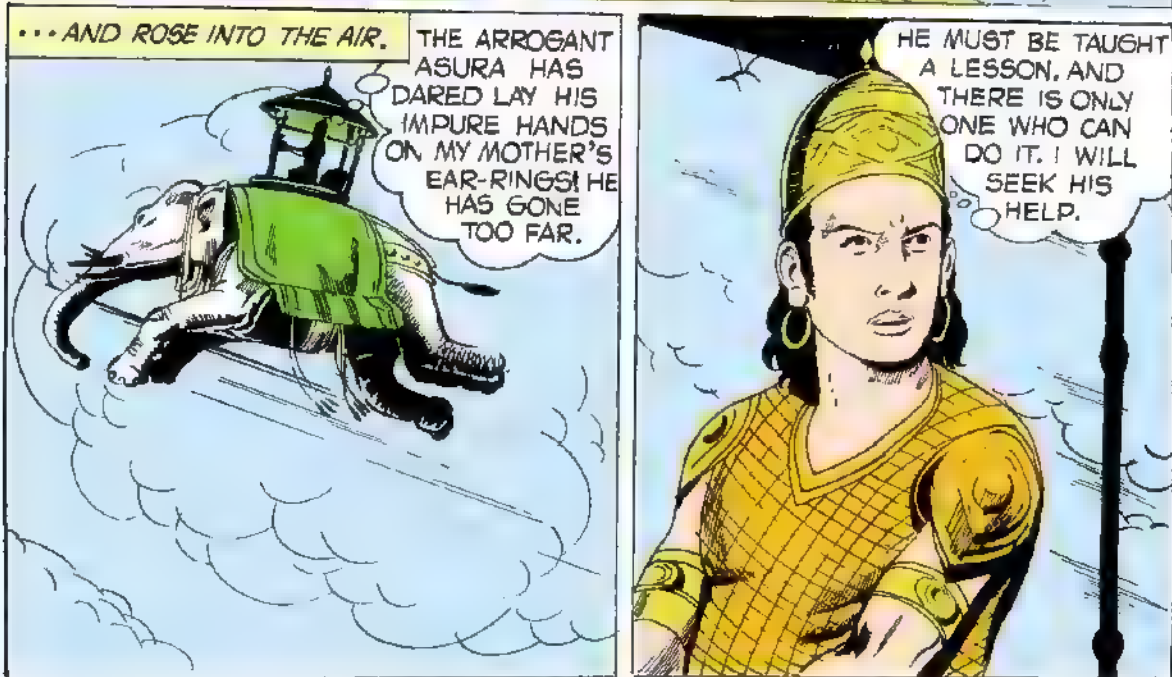
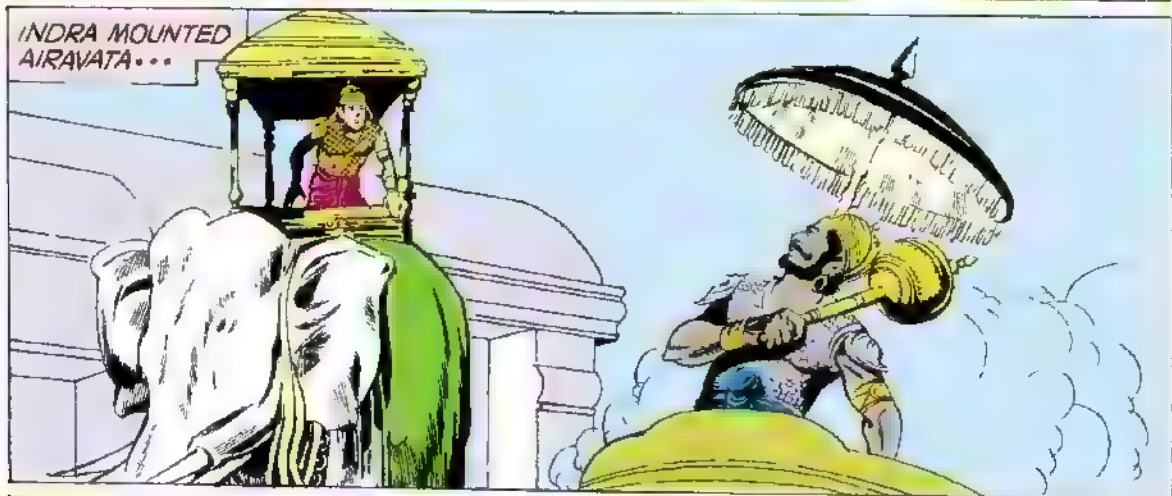
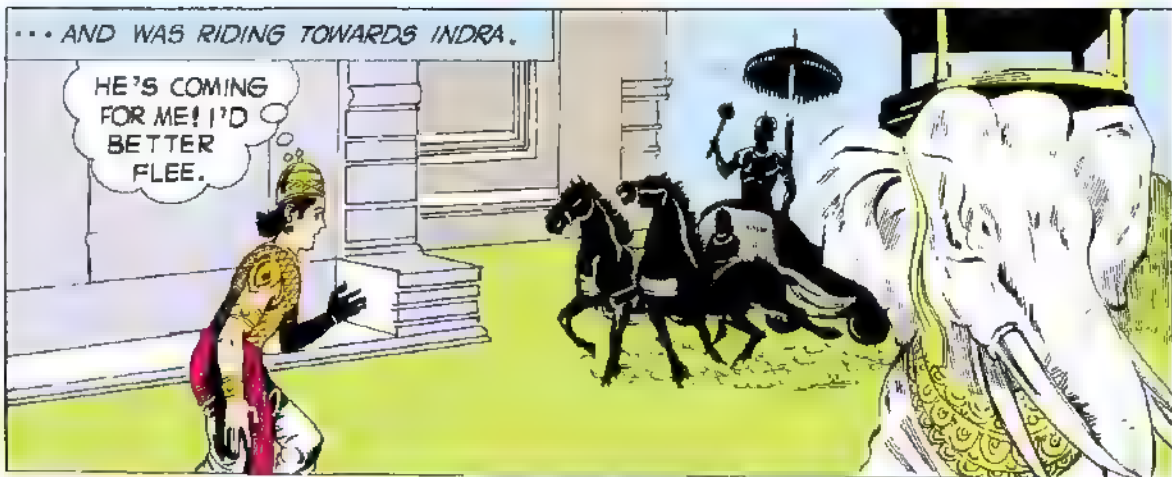
THOSE EAR-RINGS
LACK LUSTRE ON
YOU, O MOTHER
OF THE COW-
ARDLY DEVAS.



HE RUSHED FORWARD AND SNATCHED THE
EAR-RINGS.







WHEN AN AGITATED INDRA BURST INTO THE PALACE AT DWARAKA, KRISHNA WAS SEATED WITH SATYABHAMA.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY DO YOU LOOK SO PALE?

IT'S THE ASURA, NARAKA.

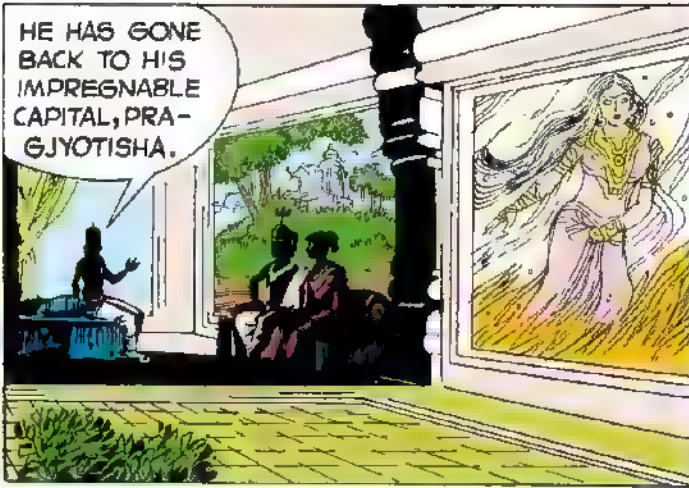
BHOOMI DEVI'S SON? WHAT HAS HE DONE?

HE SNATCHED MY MOTHER'S EARRINGS FROM HER VERY EARS, TOOK AWAY VARUNA'S UMBRELLA AND...

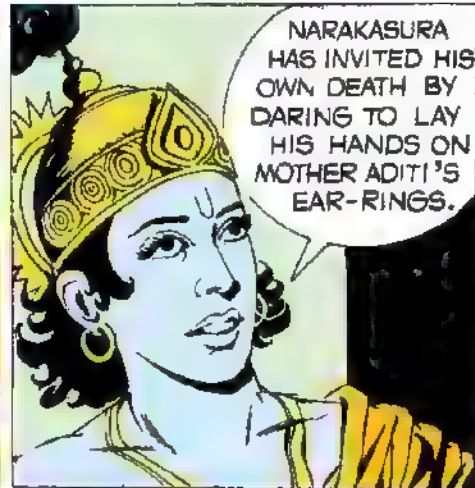
...AND DROVE ME OUT OF AMARAVATI. YOU MUST KILL THAT SINFUL WRETCH. ONLY YOU CAN DO IT.

WHERE IS HE NOW?

HE HAS GONE
BACK TO HIS
IMPREGNABLE
CAPITAL, PRA-
GJYOTISHA.

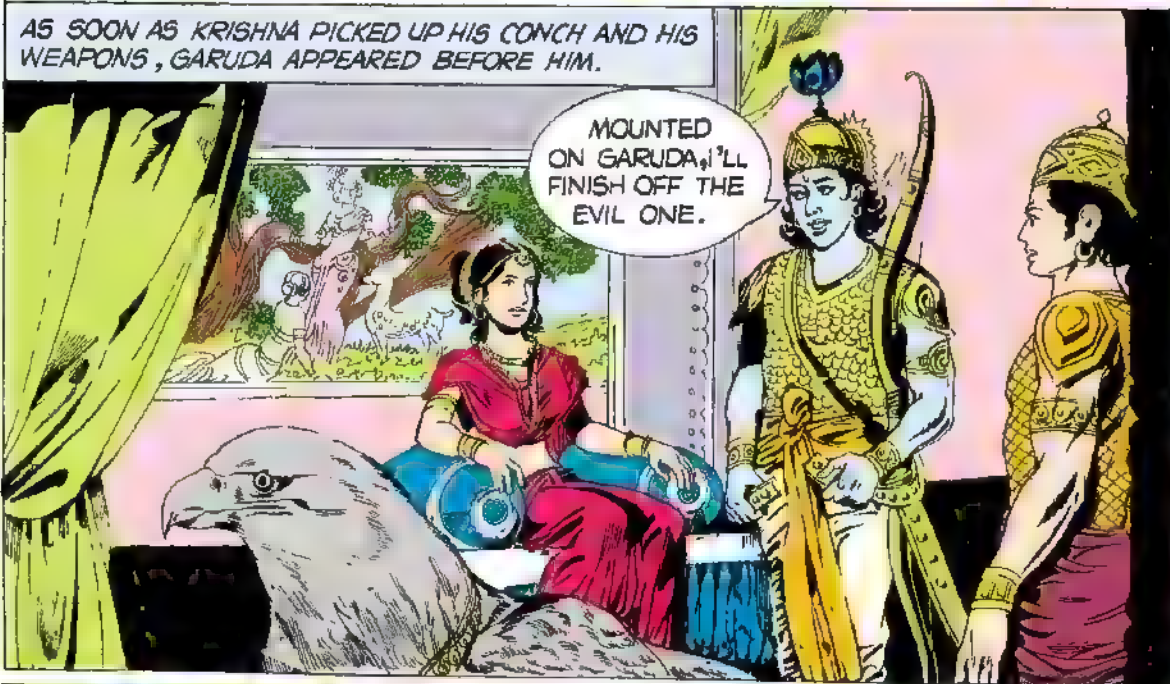


NARAKASURA
HAS INVITED HIS
OWN DEATH BY
DARING TO LAY
HIS HANDS ON
MOTHER ADITI'S
EAR-RINGS.

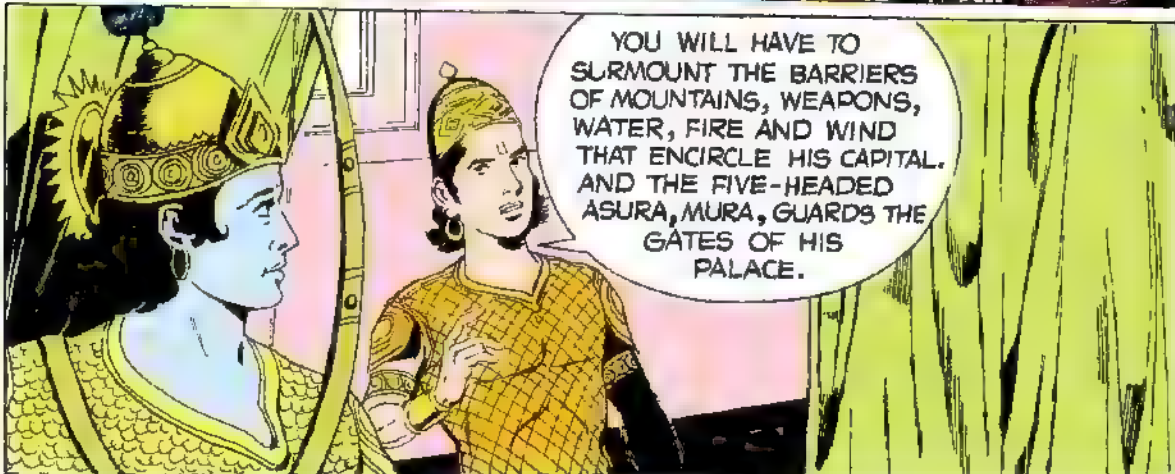


AS SOON AS KRISHNA PICKED UP HIS CONCH AND HIS
WEAPONS, GARUDA APPEARED BEFORE HIM.

MOUNTED
ON GARUDA, I'LL
FINISH OFF THE
EVIL ONE.



YOU WILL HAVE TO
SURMOUNT THE BARRIERS
OF MOUNTAINS, WEAPONS,
WATER, FIRE AND WIND
THAT ENCIRCLE HIS CAPITAL.
AND THE FIVE-HEADED
ASURA, MURA, GUARDS THE
GATES OF HIS
PALACE.



AS KRISHNA WAS ABOUT TO TELL INDRA THAT HE WAS AWARE OF ALL THAT, HE SAW SATYABHAMA POUTING.



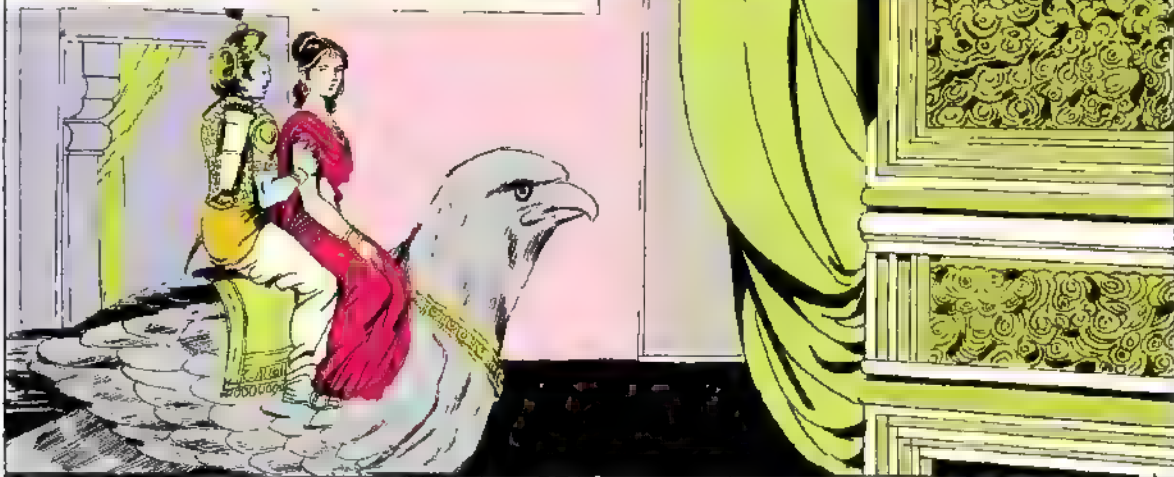
WITHOUT UTTERING A WORD, HE CAUGHT THE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED SATYABHAMA BY THE WAIST...



...AND SWUNG HER ONTO GARUDA.



HE THEN SEATED HIMSELF BEHIND HER.



GARUDA SOARED INTO THE AIR.



AS THEY NEARED PRAGJYOTISHA, GARUDA'S BEAK SUDDENLY HIT SOMETHING HARD.



WHICHEVER WAY HE TURNED, HUGE MOUNTAINS ROSE BEFORE HIM, BLOCKING HIS PATH.



KRISHNA WAS UNPERTURBED. HE SWUNG OUT HIS MACE...



... AND WITHIN MINUTES THE MOUNTAINS WERE SHATTERED.



FLY ON, GARUDA! WE'VE BROKEN THE FIRST BARRIER.

FILLED WITH RENEWED ENERGY, GARUDA FLEW ON.



SUDDENLY —



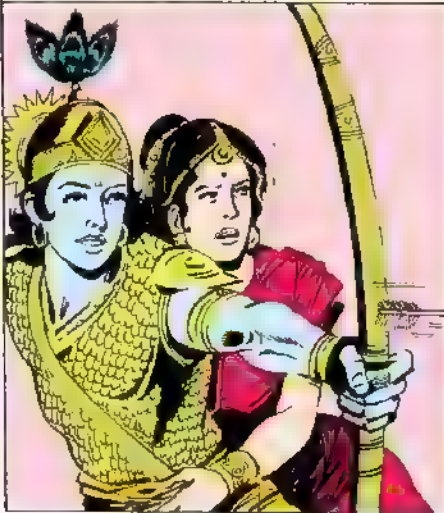
LORD! SAVE ME!

THIS FIRST ARROW WAS FOLLOWED BY A BARRAGE OF WEAPONS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

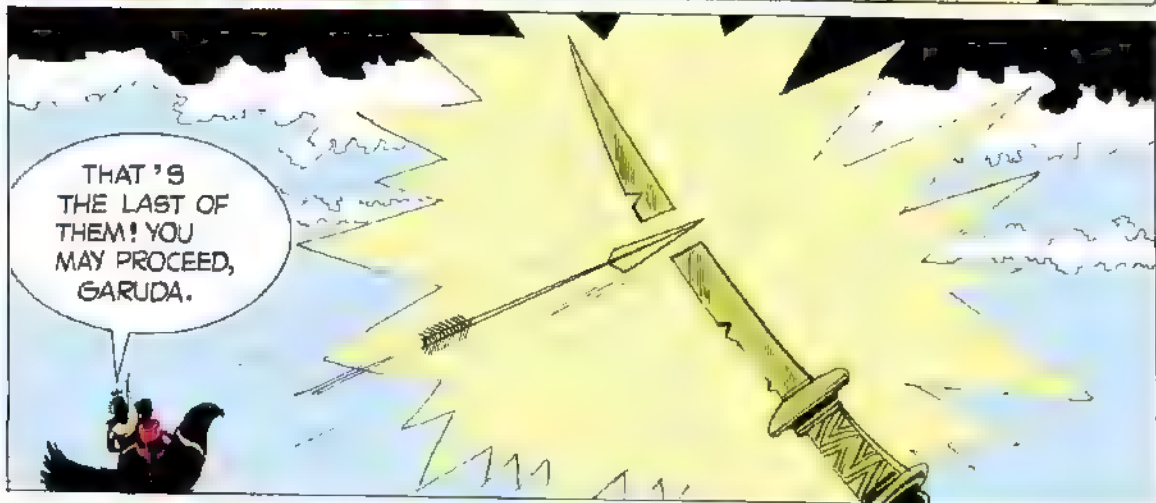
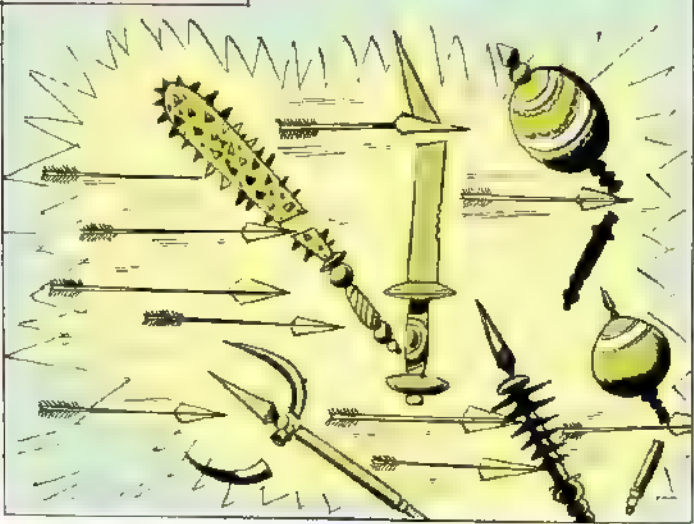


WAIT, GARUDA. DON'T TRY TO BREAK THROUGH.

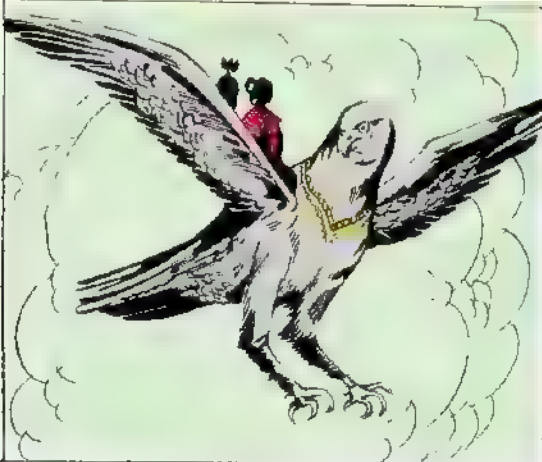
KRISHNA SHOT THE ARROWS FROM HIS INEXHAUSTIBLE QUIVER, IN SUCH QUICK SUCCESSION...



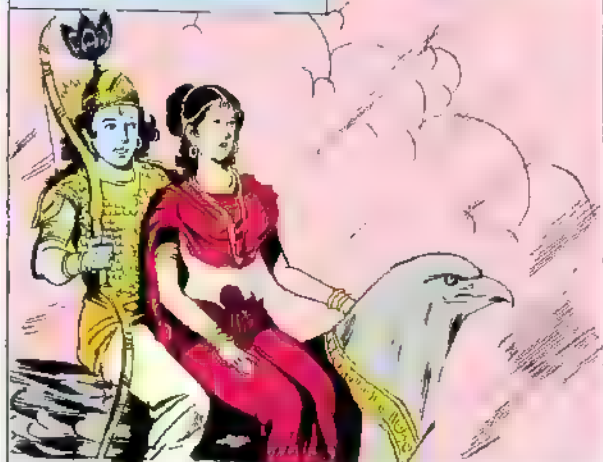
...THAT EVERY SINGLE WEAPON WAS DESTROYED BEFORE IT COULD REACH ANYWHERE NEAR GARUDA OR SATYABHAMA.



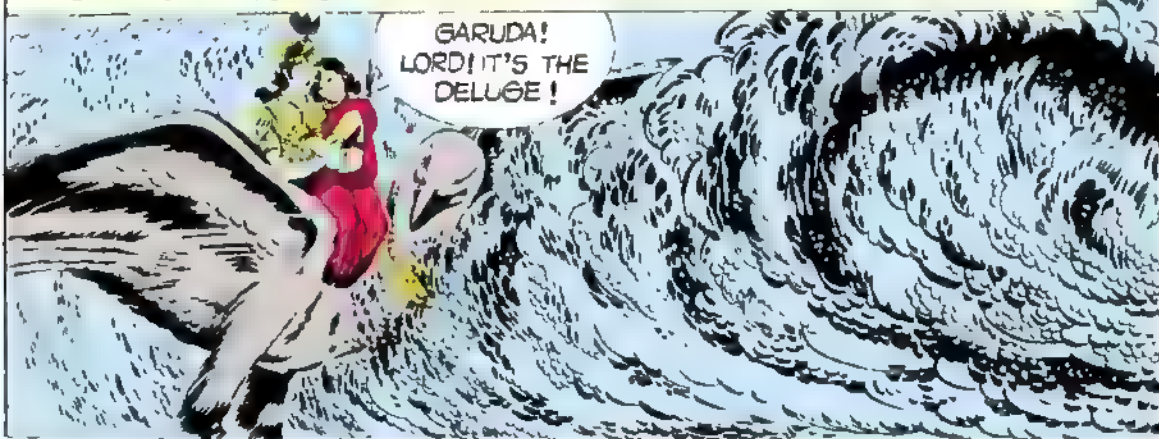
GARUDA, FLAPPED HIS WINGS HARD...



...AND FLEW ON...



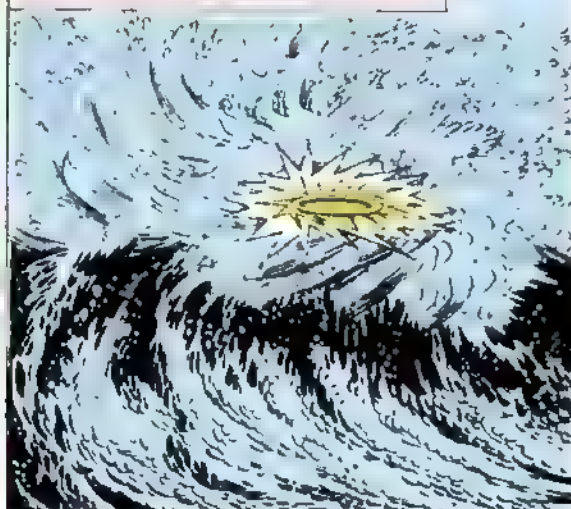
... ONLY TO BE PUSHED BACK BY A SUDDEN SURGE OF HUGE WAVES OF WATER.



UNPERTURBED, KRISHNA
RAISED HIS FINGER.



THE NEXT MOMENT HIS FLYING DISCUS
CUT THROUGH THE WAVES...



... BREAKING THEM INTO GENTLE,
LIFE-GIVING RAIN.



REFRESHED BY THE COOL SHOWERS,
GARUDA WAS ABOUT TO FLY ON WHEN...



...A HUGE BLAZE EVAPORATED THE RAIN
AND...



...SENT OUT LEAPING TONGUES OF FLAME
TO SCORCH THE INTRUDERS.



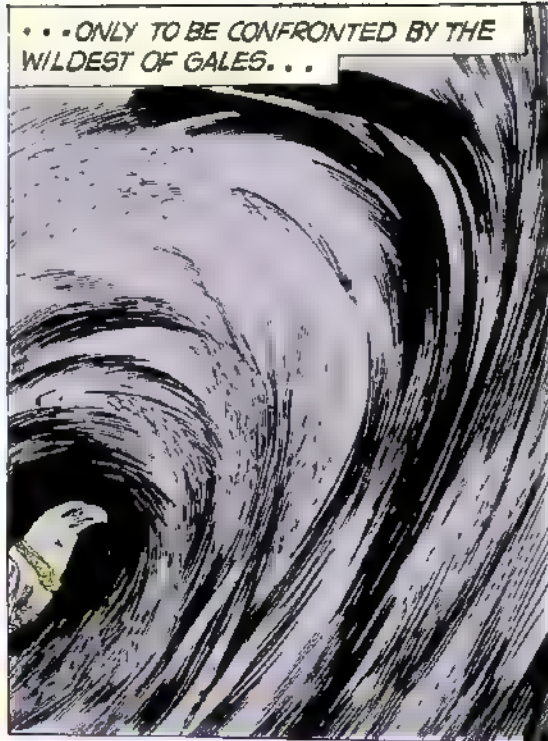
BUT THE WHIRLING DISCUS WITH ITS
INCREASING MOMENTUM CUT THROUGH
THE FLAMES.



GARUDA DARTED FORWARD...



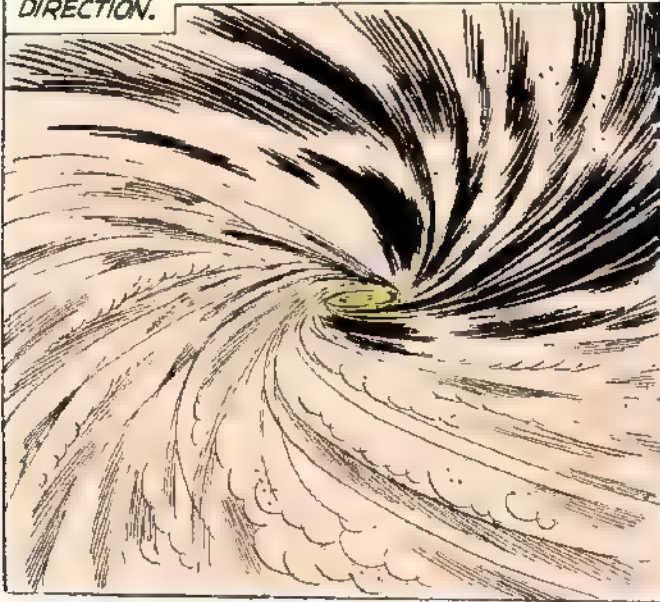
... ONLY TO BE CONFRONTED BY THE
WILDEST OF GALES...



... WHICH KEPT SWEEPING HIM BACK INTO THE FIRE.



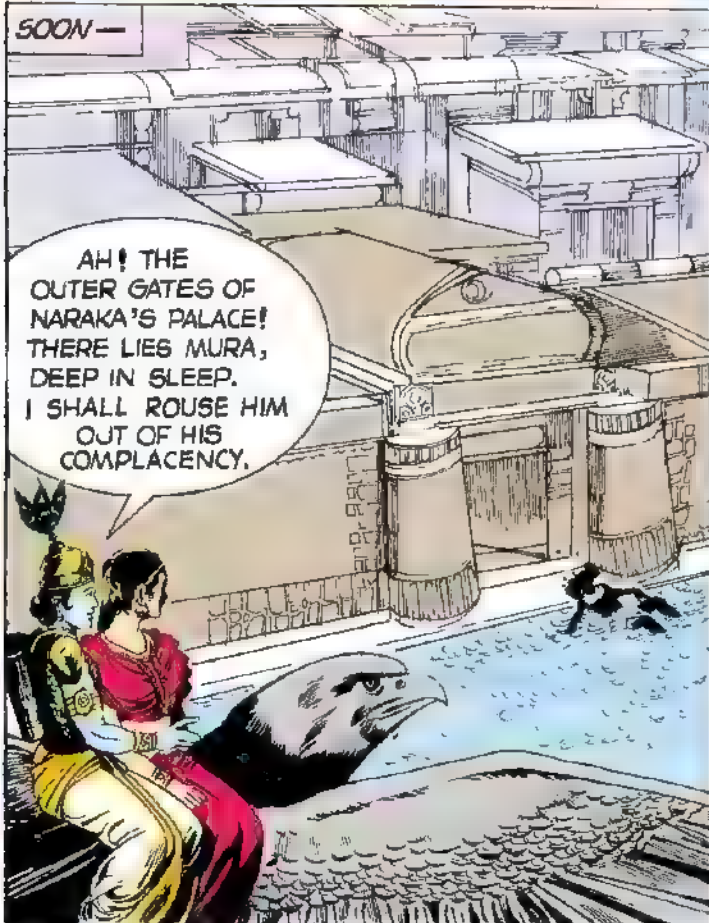
BUT THE DISCUS, WHOSE MOMENTUM NOW MATCHED THAT OF THE CYCLONIC WINDS, WHIRLED THROUGH THE CURRENTS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.



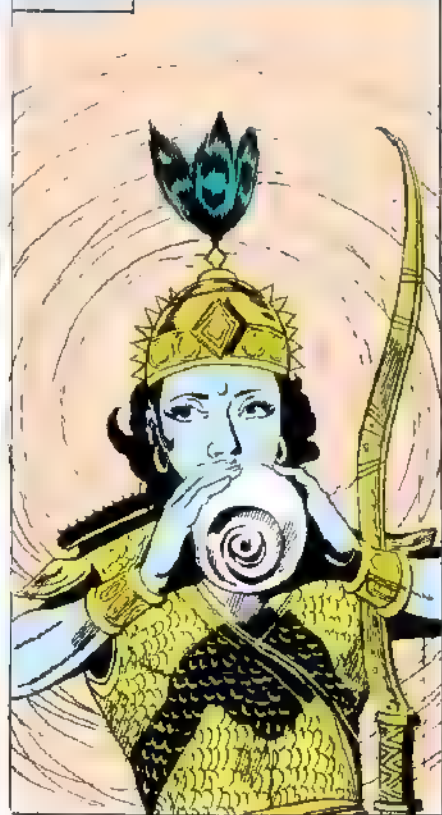
THUS THE STORMY WINDS WERE TAMED AND GARUDA FLEW ON.

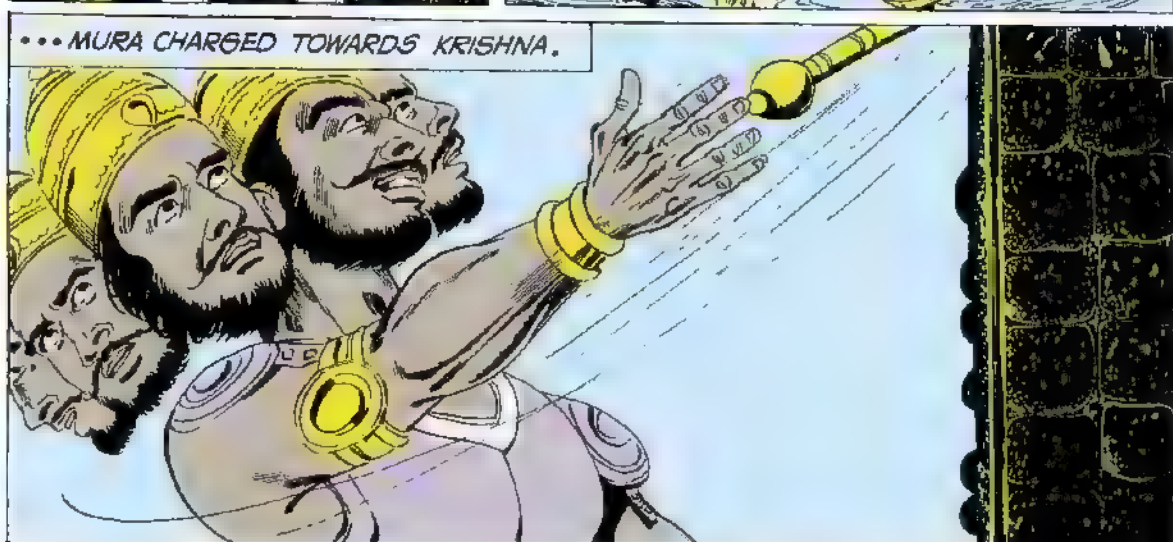
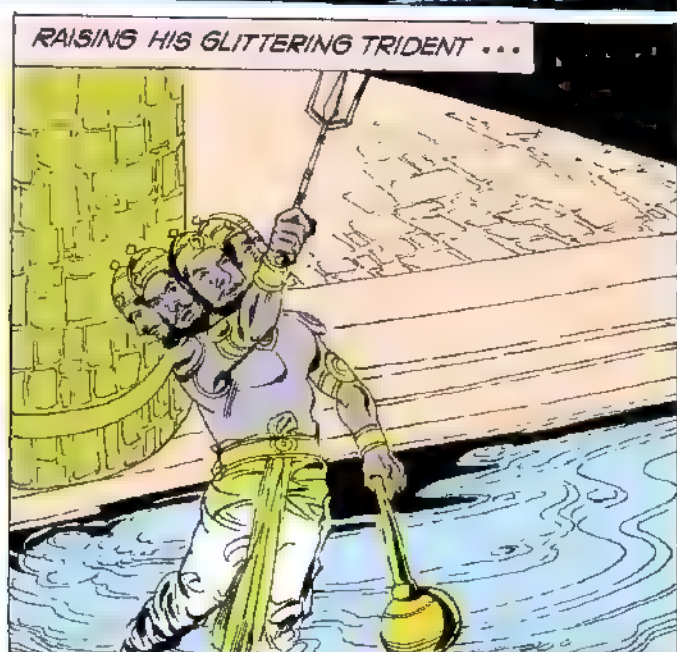
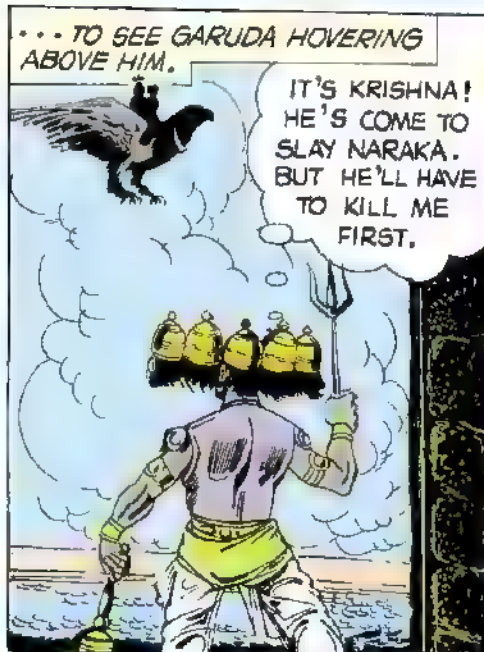
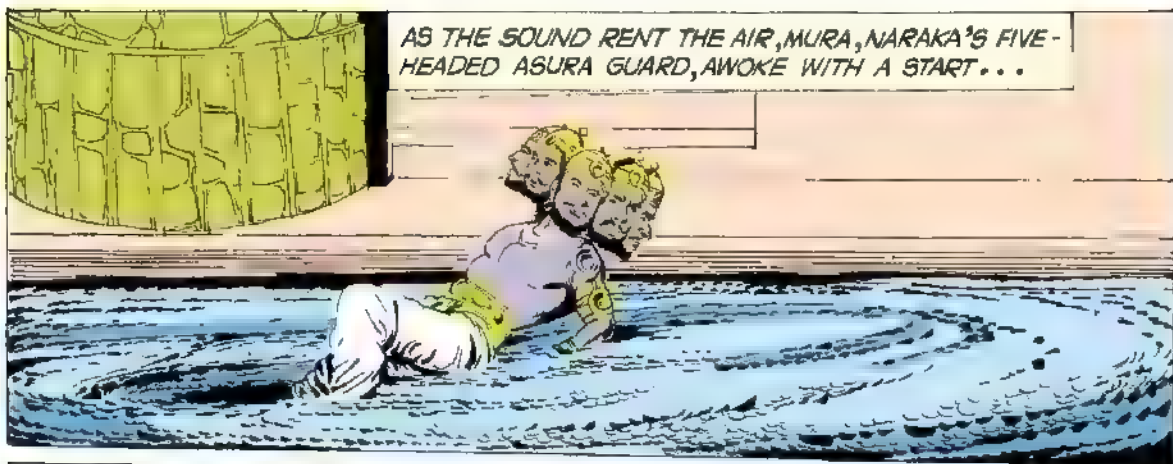


SOON —



KRISHNA RAISED HIS CONCH AND SENT OUT A TRIUMPHANT BLARE.

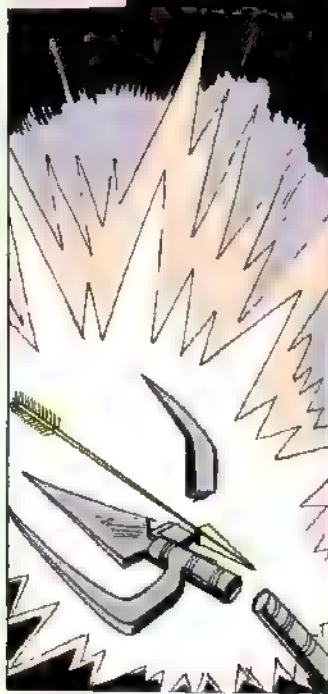




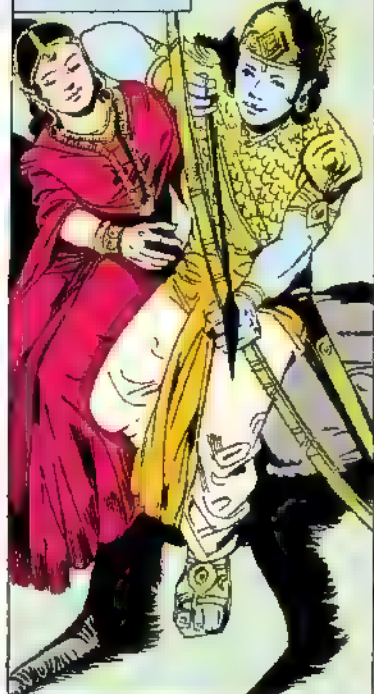
BUT WITH TWO ARROWS SHOT IN QUICK SUCCESSION...



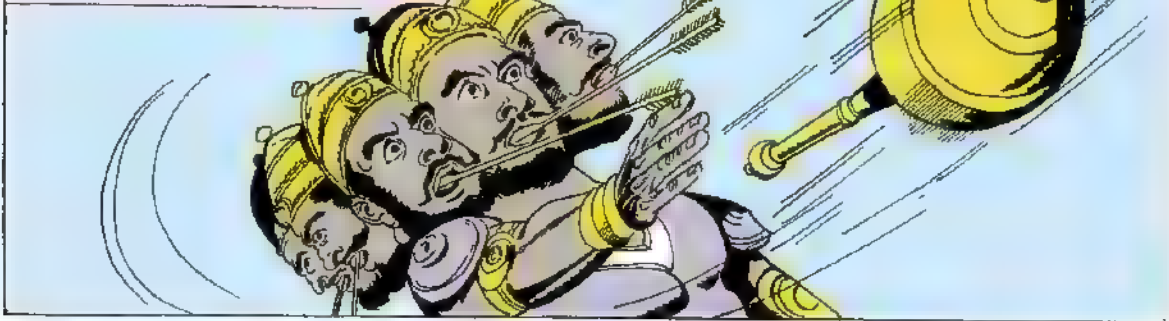
... KRISHNA SPLIT THE WEAPON INTO THREE BEFORE IT COULD TOUCH THEM.



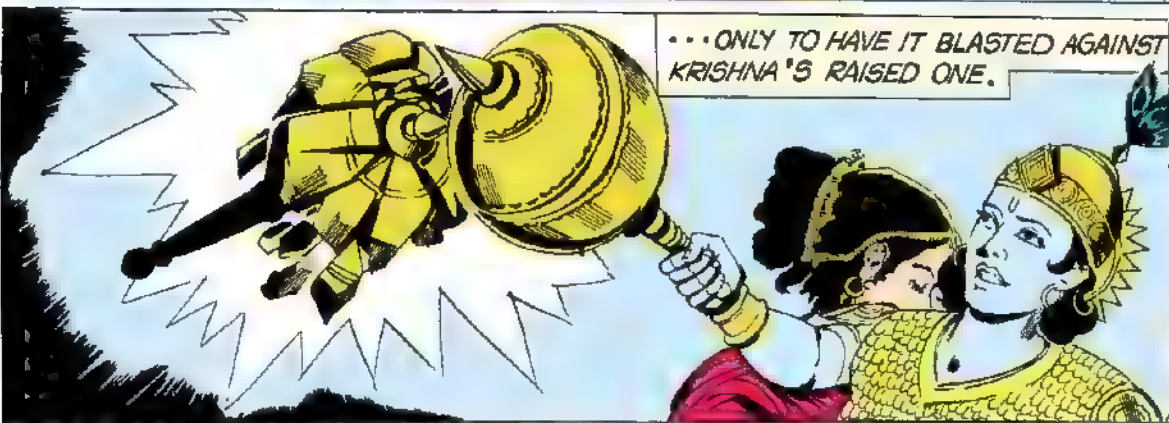
THEN HE SENT HIS STINGING ARROWS INTO THE FIVE GAPING MOUTHS OF THE ASURA.



ROARING WITH PAIN, MURA FLUNG HIS MACE AT KRISHNA...



... ONLY TO HAVE IT BLASTED AGAINST KRISHNA'S RAISED ONE.



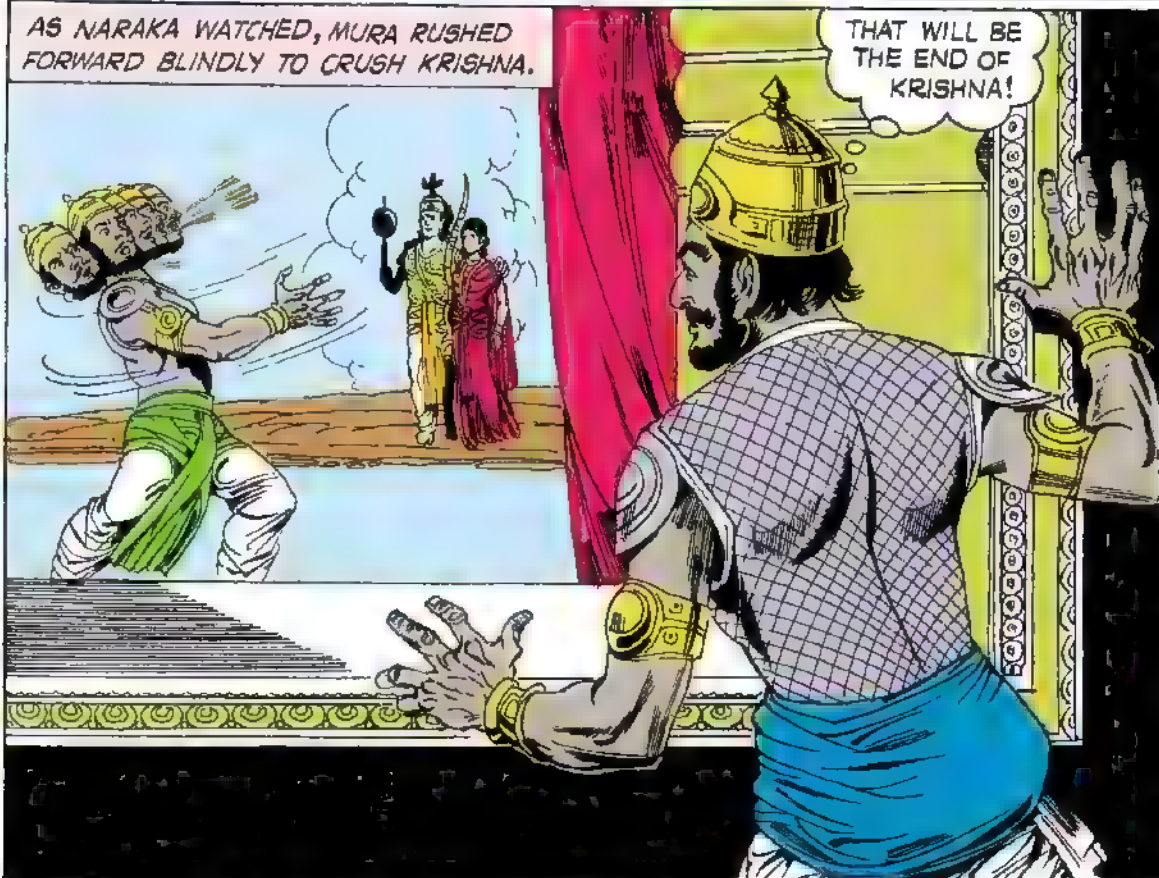
INSIDE THE PALACE, THE CLASH OF THE MACES
AWOKE NARAKA.



HE WALKED UP TO THE WINDOW AND
LOOKED OUT. HE WAS ALARMED BY THE
SIGHT THAT MET HIS EYES.



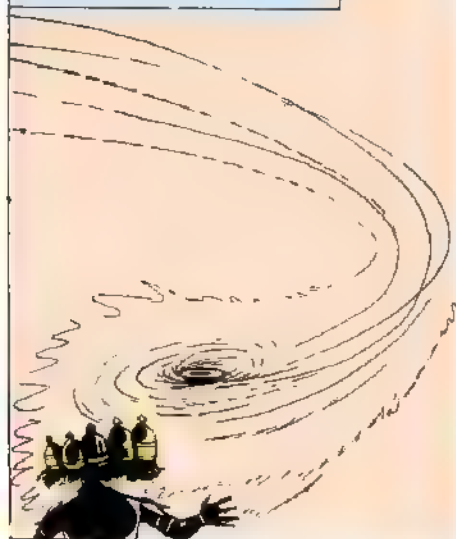
AS NARAKA WATCHED, MURA RUSHED
FORWARD BLINDLY TO CRUSH KRISHNA.



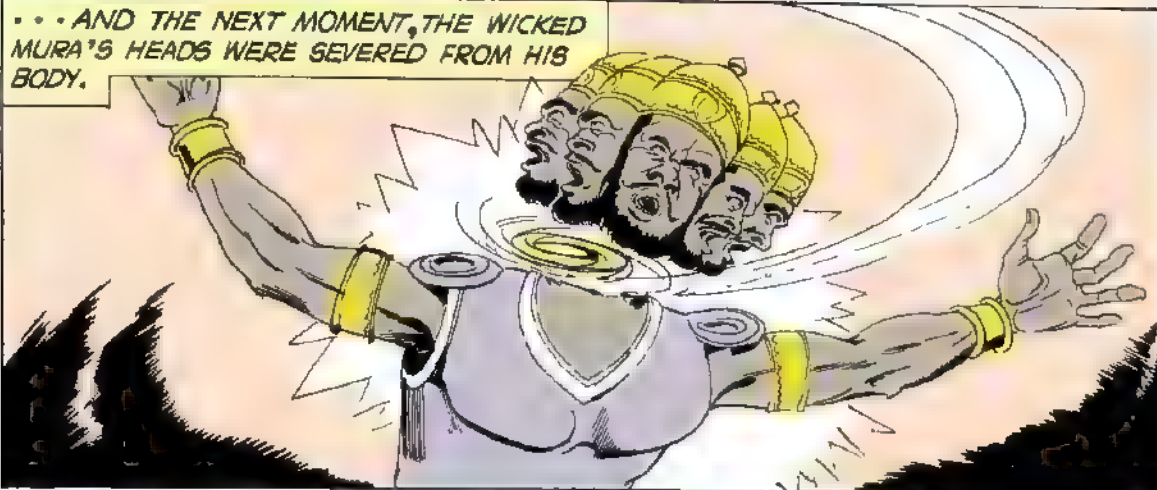
BUT SMILING ALL THE WHILE, WITH ONE ARM PROTECTIVELY AROUND SATYABHAMA, KRISHNA RAISED HIS FINGER.



HIS DISCUS CAME SAILING THROUGH THE AIR...

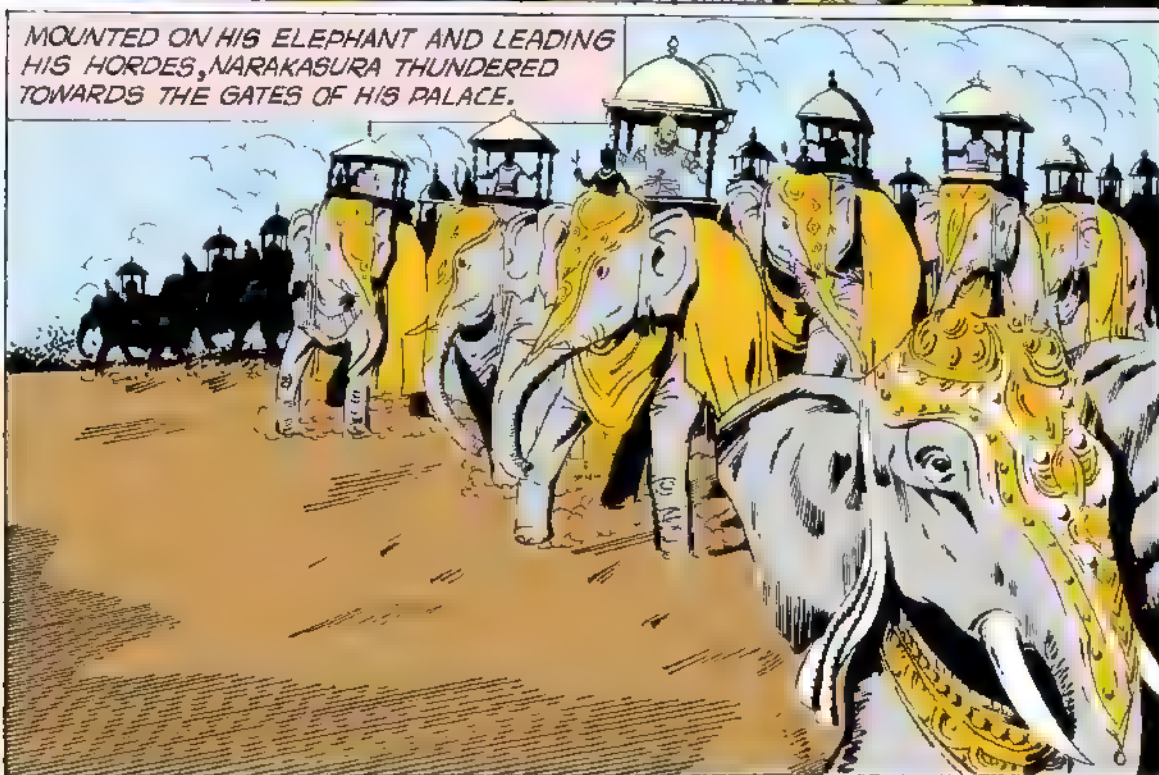
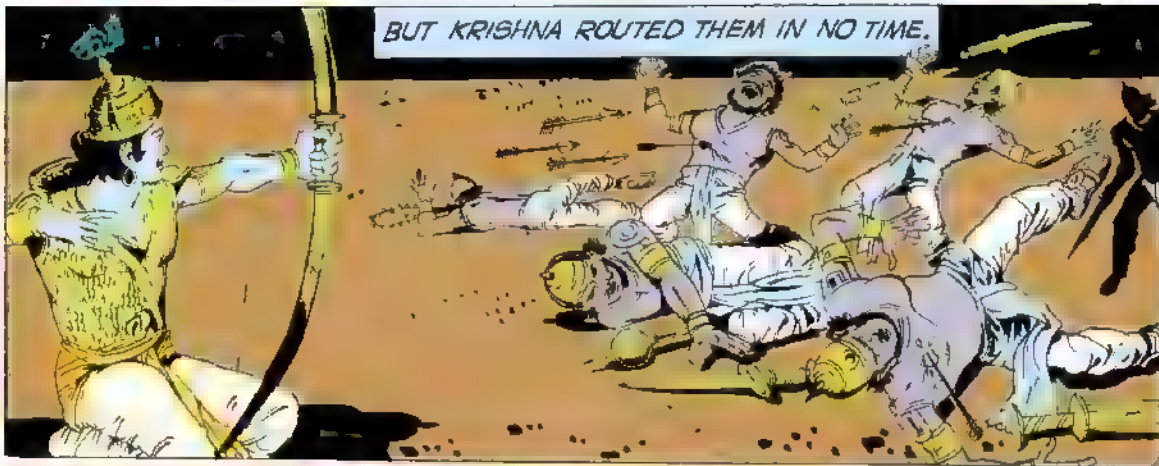


... AND THE NEXT MOMENT, THE WICKED MURA'S HEADS WERE SEVERED FROM HIS BODY.

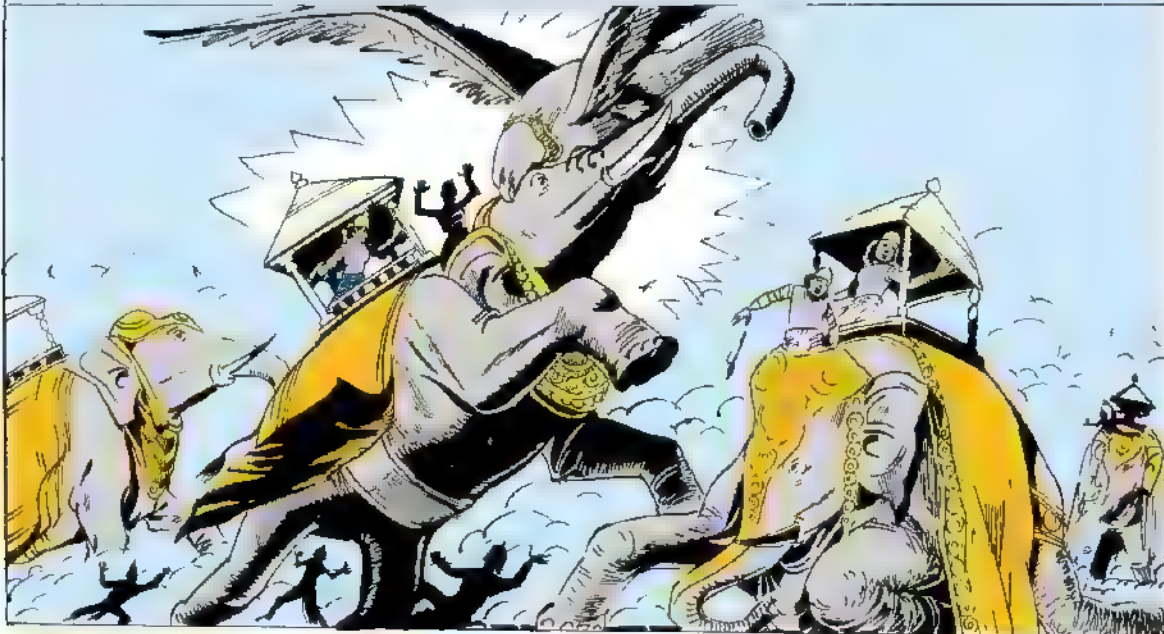


HEARING HIS ROARS AS HE FELL, MURA'S SEVEN SONS CAME RUSHING OUT WITH MACES, SWORDS AND CLUBS.





GARUDA FLEW AT THE ELEPHANTS AND ATTACKED THEM WITH BEAK, WING AND CLAW.

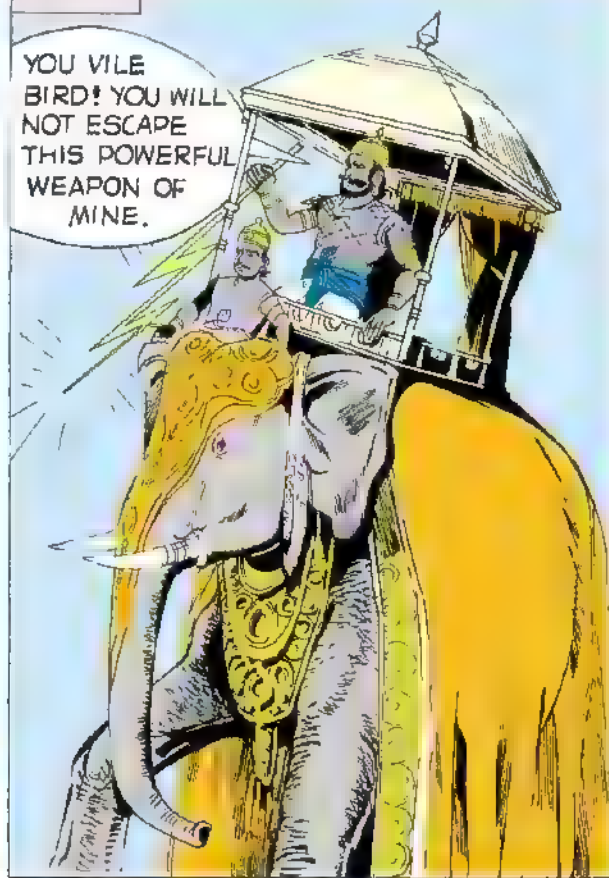


THE FRIGHTENED ELEPHANTS
TURNED AWAY...

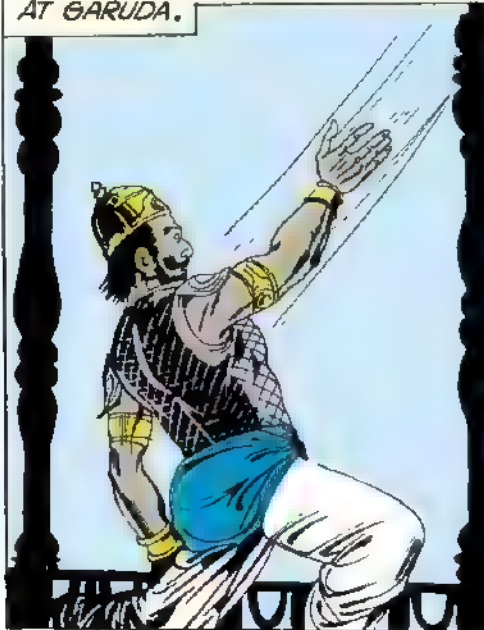


... AND BEGAN RUNNING BACK TOWARDS
THE PALACE. NARAKASURA WAS LIVID WITH
RAGE.

YOU VILE
BIRD! YOU WILL
NOT ESCAPE
THIS POWERFUL
WEAPON OF
MINE.



AND NARAKA HURLED THE WEAPON AT GARUDA.



BUT WHEN THAT MIGHTY WEAPON TOUCHED GARUDA, IT DID NOT HAVE THE FORCE OF EVEN A GARLAND OF FLOWERS.



NARAKA TOOK UP HIS MACE TO HURL IT AT KRISHNA.



BUT BEFORE HE COULD HURL IT, A WHIRRING SOUND DISTRACTED HIM AND HE LOOKED UP.

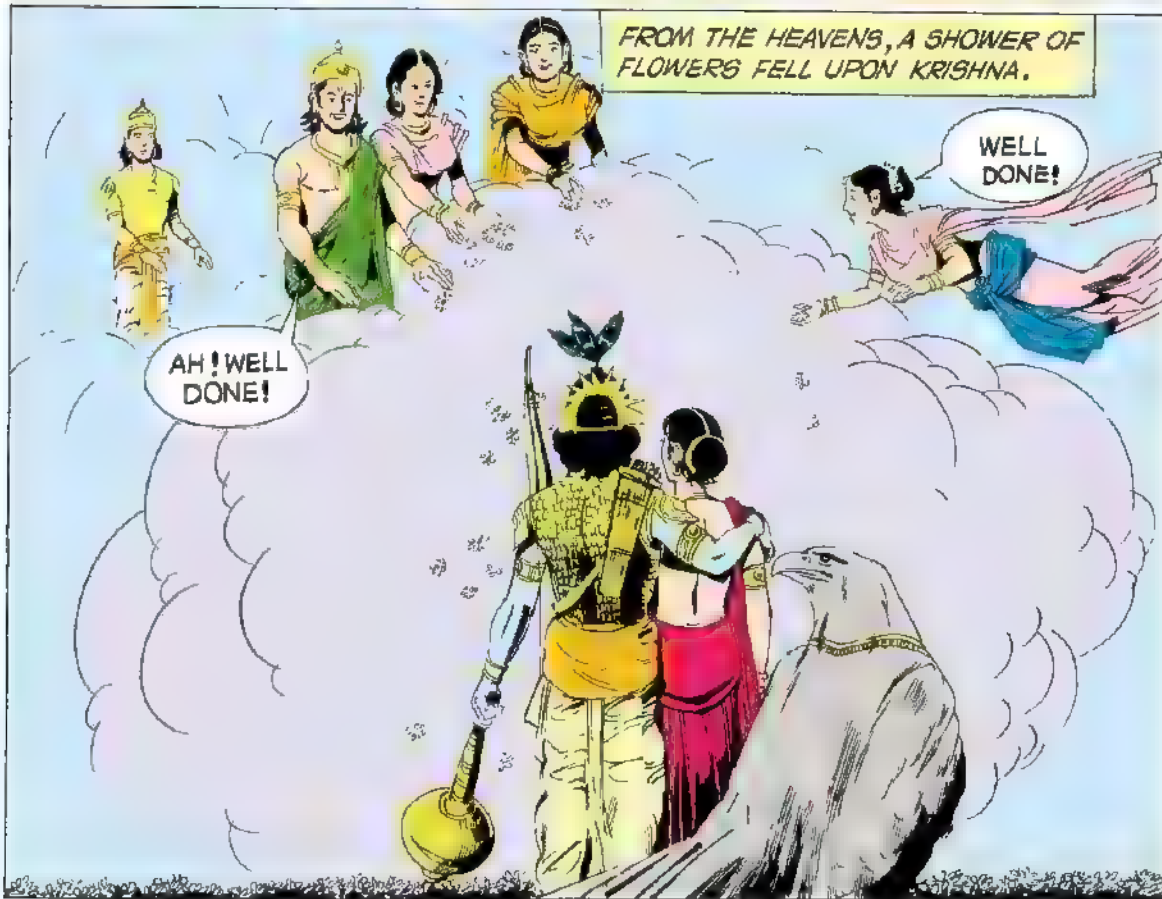
THE DISCUS!
IT'S FLYING TO-
WARDS ME!





A-A-
AH!

THE MIGHTY NARAKASURA ROLLED OFF HIS
ELEPHANT, DEAD.



FROM THE HEAVENS, A SHOWER OF
FLOWERS FELL UPON KRISHNA.

AH! WELL
DONE!

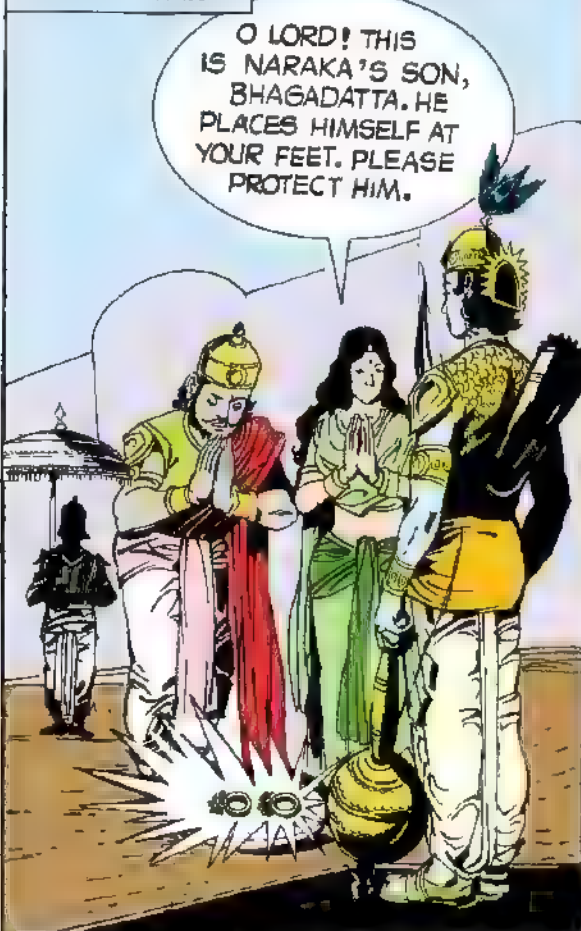
WELL
DONE!

MEANWHILE FOLLOWED BY A YOUNG ASURA, BHOOMI DEVI* CAME TOWARDS KRISHNA WITH ADITI'S EAR-RINGS AND VARUNA'S UMBRELLA.



COME, BHAGADATTA, LET US PRAISE THE LORD AND SEEK HIS PROTECTION.

PLACING THE STOLEN ARTICLES AT HIS FEET, BHOOMI DEVI SANG HYMNS IN PRAISE OF KRISHNA. THEN —



O LORD! THIS IS NARAKA'S SON, BHAGADATTA. HE PLACES HIMSELF AT YOUR FEET. PLEASE PROTECT HIM.

KRISHNA SMILED.



DO NOT FEAR, BHOOMI DEVI. HE SHALL BE INSTALLED ON HIS FATHER'S THRONE. COME, LET US ENTER THE PALACE.

* NARAKASURA'S MOTHER

WHEN KRISHNA ENTERED THE PALACE, THE 16,100 MAIDENS CAPTURED BY NARAKA GREETED HIM.



KRISHNA TURNED TO BHAGADATTA.

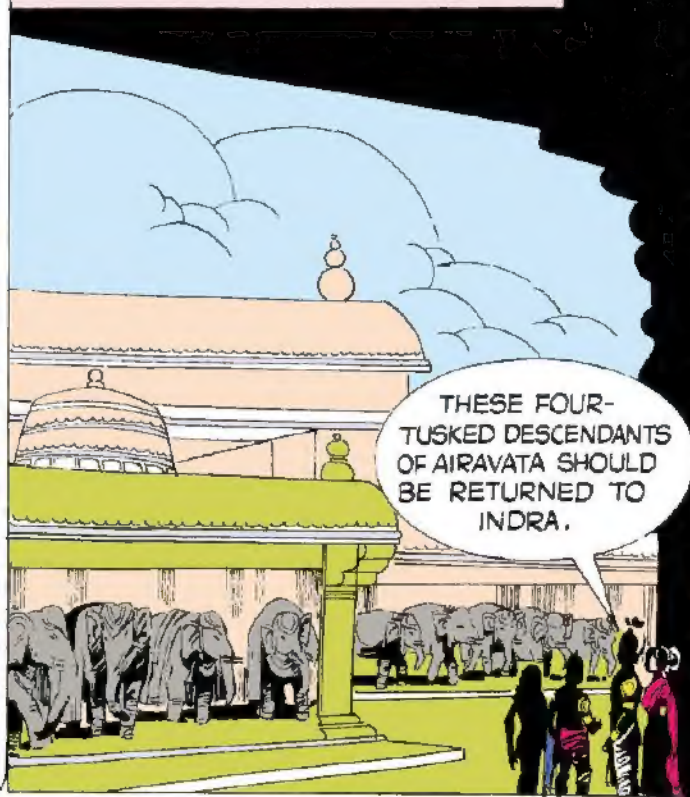


KRISHNA THEN INSPECTED
NARAKA'S TREASURY.



HAVE ALL
THIS WEALTH
SENT TO
DWARAKA.

NEXT HE WENT TO NARAKA'S STABLES.



THESE FOUR-
TUSKED DESCENDANTS
OF AIRAVATA SHOULD
BE RETURNED TO
INDRA.

SATYABHAMA, NOW LET
US GO AND DELIGHT MOTHER
ADITI BY RETURNING HER
STOLEN EAR-RINGS.
VARUNA, TOO, SHALL HAVE
HIS CELESTIAL UMBRELLA,
BACK.



THEN, MOUNTED ON GARUDA THEY FLEW
TOWARDS AMARAVATI TO DELIVER THE
STOLEN GOODS.



WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Abhimanyu
Agastya
Andhaka
Aniruddha
Arjuni And Uttanka
Ashwini Kumars
Ayyappa
Bahubali
Bhanumati
Bheema And Hanuman
Bheeshma
Chandrarasa
Dasharatha
Dhruva And Ashtavakra
Draupadi
Drona
Elephanta
Gandhari
Ganesha
Ganesha And The Moon
Ganga
Garuda
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
Hanuman To The Rescue
Harischandra
Heroes Of Hampi
Indra And Shachi
Indra And Shibi
Indra And Vritra
Jagannatha Of Puri
Jayadratha
Kacha And Devayani
Karna
Karttikeya
Konark
Krishna
Krishna And Jerasandha
Krishna And Narakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
Krishna And The False
Vasudeva
Kubera
Kumbhakarna
Mahabharata
Mahiravana
Nachiketa
Nahusha
Nala Damsyanti
Pareekshit
Parashurama
Prabhavati
Pradyumna
Prahlad
Purushottam Dev And
Padmavati
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Tales Of Durga
Tales Of Indra
Tales Of Narada

Tales Of Shiva
Tales Of Vishnu
Tales Of Yudhishtira
Tapati
Tharjavur
The Churning Of The
Ocean
The Gita
The Golden Mongoose
The King In
A Parrot's Body
The Lord Of Lanka
The Pandava Princes
The Pandavas In Hiding
The Parijata Tree
The Sons Of Rama
The Symantaka Gem
Tirupati
Tripura
Uloopi
Valishno Devi
Vali
Vishwamitra
Yayati

VISIONARIES

Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

Adi Shankara
Albert Einstein
Anant Pai
Babasaheb Ambedkar
Basaveshwara
Buddha
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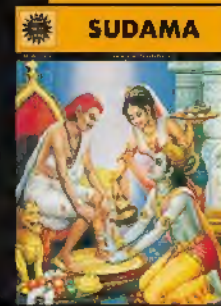
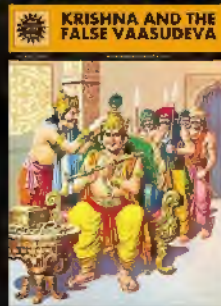


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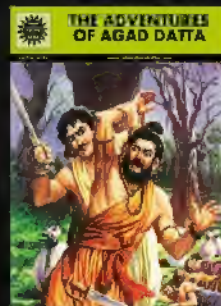
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